ensure achievement of basic objectives of National Knowledge Commission; and

(d) if so, the final outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Vice Chairman has sent some comments and suggestions on the National Knowledge Commission's (NKC) recommendations on various issues in January, 2007.

(b) to (d) The NKC has been set up to advice the Government on building excellence in the area of knowledge to meet the challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive edge in the field of knowledge. Two members had resigned on personal grounds during 2006, but the Commission did submit its reports later that year. The recommendations of the Commission will provide a blue print for transforming India into a knowledge society. These have been referred to the concerned Ministries for examination.

Weeding out Centrally Funded Schemes

1881. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to weed out certain Centrally Funded Schemes with a view to enhance allocation to other centrally funded projects especially under Rural Development Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of implementation of Natinal Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) project in Orissa;

(d) whether the Orissa State has requested for inclusion of more districts under this projects; and

(e) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Some Plan Schemes are discontinued

on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise and rationalization of Plan schemes during the course of a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan priorities and targets and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) will get subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as soon as a district is covered under NREGA.

(c) The status of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the nineteen districts (in the first phase) in Orissa is as follows:

1.	Job Cards issued	25,07,736
2.	Households Provided Employment	12,64,957
3.	Employment generated	506.64 lakh persondays.
4.	Ongoing Works	29,669
5.	Completed Works	19,199
6.	Funds released by Ministry of Rural Development during Current year (2006-07)	Rs. 754.56 crore
7.	Total Funds available	Rs. 876.32 crore
8.	Total Expenditure	Rs. 424.68 crore

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Five more districts of Orissa will be covered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the second phase in 2007-2008. They are (i) Bargarh, (ii) Angul, (iii) Balasore, (iv) Bhadrak and (v) Jaipur. With this additional coverage the number of districts covered under NREGA in the State will go up from 19 to 24 out of total 30 districts.